AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing mailpieces comprising:

(a)   detecting information present on at least one surface of a mailpiece and applying a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces;

(b)   transmitting the detected information and ~~the~~ an appertaining identification code to an interface computer[[;]] and

~~(c)~~   storing the detected information and the appertaining ~~pertinent~~ identification code ~~as data~~;

~~(d)~~(c)   accessing the stored ~~data;~~ information and the stored identification code and

~~(e)~~   determining address information on the basis of the detected and stored information;

~~(f)~~(d)   comparing the detected address information with address information present in a database;

~~(g)~~(e)   associating the detected address information with new address information on the basis of the comparison that has been carried out;

~~(h)~~(f)   transmitting the associated new address information and the appertaining identification code to the interface computer;

~~(i)~~(g)   detecting the identification code applied onto the mailpieces[[;]] and[[,]]

~~(j)~~   applying the new address information onto the mailpiece, whereby the new address information is applied as a function of the identification code.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing the mailpieces according to a two-stage process, comprising preliminarily sorting the mailpieces ~~in a first sorting step~~ and, separately, sorting the mailpieces into smaller units ~~in a second sorting step~~, and detecting the information present on the surface of the mailpiece and converting the address information present on the mailpiece into the new address information during the preliminary sorting ~~first sorting step~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ascertaining whether the detected address information contains a first postal code, and converting the first postal code into a postal code that matches ~~correct~~ the new address information.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising applying the new address information onto the mailpiece in coded form.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information comprises a barcode.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information at least partially in plain text.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising carrying out ~~at least one sorting step~~ <u>one of the preliminary sorting and the sorting the mailpieces into smaller units</u> as a function of the new address information.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transporting the mailpieces at least over a segment as a function of the new address information.

9.   (Currently Amended) A device for processing mailpieces comprising:

a)   a ~~detection~~ device ~~capable of detecting~~ <u>that detects</u> information present on at least one surface of the mailpieces and a printer to apply a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces;

b)   an interface computer comprising memory for storing the detected information;

c)   processing stations comprising a processor ~~capable of accessing~~ <u>that accesses</u> the stored detected information and the appertaining stored identification codes, and ~~capable of~~ <u>the processor determines</u> ~~determining~~ address information on the basis of the stored detected information;

d)   a database comprising address information and a comparison unit ~~adapted to compare~~ <u>that compares</u> the detected address information with address information present in the database,

e)   a processor ~~programmed to associate~~ <u>that associates</u> the detected address information with new address information on the basis of a comparison of the detected address information with the address information that is present in the database;

f)   a transmitter ~~capable of transmitting~~ <u>that transmits</u> the new address information and the identification code from the processing stations to the interface computer; and,

g)   a device ~~capable of detecting~~ <u>that detects</u> the identification code applied onto the mailpieces and ~~capable of applying~~ <u>a device that applies</u> the new address information onto the mailpiece as a function of the identification code.